



Press Release

Press Release Announcement - October 16, 2002 - For Immediate Use

Pennsylvania's Crop Production

HARRISBURG -- Based on conditions as of October 1, 2002, **Pennsylvania's** production of corn for grain, all dry hay, soybeans, apples, and grapes is expected to be below last year according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Pennsylvania's production of seedleaf and Maryland-type tobacco is expected to be above last year's production.

Corn for grain production is forecast at 68.4 million bushels, 29.5 percent below last year's crop. Acreage for harvest will total 950,000 with an average yield of 72 bushels per acre, compared with 98 bushels per acre last year. Alfalfa dry hay production is forecast at 1.44 million tons, 14 percent below a year ago. Pennsylvania farmers expect to harvest 600 thousand acres for dry alfalfa hay, with an average yield of 2.40 tons per acre, compared to the 2001 average yield of 2.50 tons per acre. Other dry hay production is forecast at 1.76 million tons, just slightly below last year's production. Pennsylvania farmers expect to harvest 1.10 million acres, with an average yield of 1.60 tons per acre, compared to the 2001 average yield of 1.80 tons per acre. Soybean production is expected to be 10.3 million bushels, down 25.8 percent from last year's production of 13.8 million bushels. Harvested area is expected to be 380,000 acres and yield is expected to be 27 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels per acre from 2001. Pennsylvania's seedleaf-type tobacco production is estimated at 4.41 million pounds, 7 percent more than 2001's crop. Acreage for harvest is set at 2,100 acres with an average yield of 2,100 pounds per acre. Pennsylvania's Maryland-type tobacco production is estimated at 2.405 million pounds, up 18 percent from last year. Acreage for harvest is set at 1300 acres with an average yield of 1,850 pounds per acre. Apple production is forecast at 390 million pounds, 19 percent below last year's 480 million pounds. Grape output is estimated to be 42,000 tons, 32 percent below last year's production.

At the **United States** level, corn for grain production as of October 1, 2002, is forecast at 8.97 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month, but down 6 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 127.2 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels per acre from last month but down 11.0 bushels from last year. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1995. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 70.5 million acres. Soybean production is forecast at 2.65 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from September, but 8 percent below 2001. Yield is forecast at 37.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1999. Area for harvest is forecast at 71.8 million acres, unchanged from September, but 2 percent below last year. U.S. tobacco production is forecast at 886 million pounds, less than 1 percent below the September 1 forecast and down 11 percent from 2001. If realized, this will be the smallest crop since 1908. Revised area for harvest in 2002 is forecast at 434,310 acres, virtually unchanged from last month, but up slightly from 2001. Yields for 2002 are expected to average 2,040 pounds per acre, 3 pounds higher than the September forecast, but 253 pounds below a year ago. The final apple production forecast for the 2002 crop year is 8.91 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the August 1 forecast, and 7 percent below 2001. Grape production is forecast at 7.27 million tons, up 2 percent from the August 1 forecast and 11 percent above 2001.